WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Likely Hike in Power Tariff in Orissa

*44. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Power tariff may go up three times" which appeared in Indian Express dated 11th November, 1999 regarding threat of Central Electricity Supply Company (CESCO) to increase power tariff in cyclone-affected coastal district of orissa; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, specially to bear the reported loss of Rs. 300 crore of aforesaid American company?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A view in the matter is to be taken by Government of Orissa and by the Government of India if the Government of Orissa approaches the Government of India after the OERC conisders CESCO's tariff application.

Political Activities by NGOs

*45. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which are indulging in political activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to ban such NGOs: and

(d) if so, the action taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Non-Governmental organisations are free to engage in political activities. However, according to Section 5(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, associations of a political nature not being a political party, duly notified by the Government, can accept foreign contribution only with the prior permission of the Central Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.